



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 8, No. 3, March 2013

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JOIN US!

If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member,
look at the back of your
Arkansas Family Historian.
Your membership expires
on the date printed under
your name.

It may be time to renew
your AGS membership dues!

Save the Date
The Arkansas Genealogical Society
2013 Fall Seminar
will be held on
Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21
at the **Wyndham Hotel**
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The featured speaker on Saturday will be
J. Mark Lowe

Full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer
Plan on joining us; a good time will be had by all

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Tidbits –

March promises to be a good month for genealogy in Arkansas. If you are elsewhere I hope you will have equally good opportunities to add to your knowledge and increase your skills.

The *Coming Events* this month includes eight items. Besides a couple of brief talks at local libraries there are several workshops. Certainly one of the highlights will be the day-long FREE Genealogy for You Seminar on March 9 at the library in Benton that will feature George G. Morgan speaking on four different subjects.

Very few Americans do not have Irish ancestry to trace somewhere along the pedigree chart. Representatives of the Ulster Genealogical Foundation will be in Arkansas again, this time in Batesville for an evening of lectures on March 19 to talk about northern Ireland and Scots-Irish research.

Many Arkansans are within reasonable travel distance of the Independence, Missouri, area where an Ancestry Day will be held March 16.

At the end of the month Laman Library in North Little Rock will open a Civil War Photography exhibit which promises to be very interesting.

For details on these events see pages 3 and 4 here.

Coming Events

Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 8

Log Cabin Restoration Workshop with Joe Gallagher at Historic Arkansas Museum, 200 E. Third St., Little Rock, Arkansas; \$900; see page 10 here for details.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Legacies & Lunch, Noon to 1 p.m., Rebecca Howard—*Women in Arkansas during the Civil War*. Darragh Center, Main Library, 100 Rock St., Little Rock.

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Pope County Library, Genealogy and History Department, 116 E. 3rd St., Russellville, Heritage Hall, 6 p.m., *Arkansas and Civil War Currency and Banking* with Ray Phillips. Call Kathy Fowler at 479-968-4368 or email Kathy at kfowler@popelibrary.org

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Free Genealogy For You Seminar at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Arkansas. Mr. George G. Morgan of Tampa, Florida, will make four presentations: Session I is entitled *Getting the Most from Ancestry Library Edition*; Session II-*New Ways to Research Our Roots*; Session III-*Bits about Obits: Reading between the Lines*; Session IV-*Alternate Records You May Have Never Considered*. Lunch will be on your own. Register by calling 501-788-4766.

Coming Events continued

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Ancestry Day at the Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs, Missouri, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., sponsored by the Midwest Genealogy Center of Independence, Missouri, and Ancestry.com. Sessions will be taught by Ancestry.com staff members, Anne Mitchell and Lou Szucs, and staff from the Midwest Genealogy Center focusing on all levels of genealogy research. For information on location and hours go to <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/directions-and-hours>. Registration \$35. To register go to <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/ancestry-day>. If you have questions, call 816-252-7228 and ask for Angela or Janice or email them at ge@mymcpl.org.

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Batesville, Arkansas—Irish Genealogy Workshop by Ulster Historical Foundation; details here on pages 5-7.

Monday, March 25, 2013

Heritage Seekers, Laman Library, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 7 p.m., speaker Lisa Evridge from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas.

March 29-June 15, 2013

Portraits in Gray: A Civil War Photography Collection, Laman Library Exhibit Hall, North Little Rock, Arkansas, the private collection of David Vaughn of Atlanta; for information contact Dan.Noble@lamanlibrary.org or call 501-758-1720.

Irish Genealogy Workshop

If you are a wee bit Irish, an Irish Genealogy Workshop will be held on **Tuesday, March 19**, at the University of Arkansas Community College Batesville Nursing Building auditorium, 2005 White Drive, **Batesville, Arkansas**. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue until 9:30 p.m.

Brian Trainor and Fintan Mullan, from the **Ulster Historical Foundation** in Belfast, Northern Ireland, will present an interesting and informative seminar on Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy for beginners and active family historians. Mullan is Executive Director of the Foundation, an educational non-profit organization which specializes in historical research and is a leading publisher of Irish history. Trainor is retired Research Director of the Foundation and was formerly the Chief Executive of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Sponsored by the Batesville Genealogical Society, **the cost to attend is \$5.00** for handouts, refreshments, etc., and the fee may be paid at the door.

Directional signs will be posted at the entrances to the UACCB campus.

For additional information and **to reserve a spot for the workshop**, call Mary Miller at 870-793-7725 or Regina Weaver at 870-307-4275.

Sessions will include:

----**Irish Genealogy**—an introduction to researching in Irish records for those who are new to Irish research and who are searching for their ancestors.

----**Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors**—the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600-1800. One of the greatest frustrations for generations of genealogical researchers has been that reliable guidance on sources for perhaps the most critical period in the establishment of their family's links with Ulster, the period up to 1800, has proved to be so elusive. Not any more. This book can claim to be the first comprehensive guide for family historians searching for ancestors in seventeenth and eighteenth century Ulster. Whether their ancestors are of English, Scottish, or Gaelic Irish origin, it will be of enormous value to anyone wishing to conduct research in Ulster prior to 1800. A comprehen-

Irish Genealogy Workshop continued

sive range of sources from the period 1600-1800 are identified and explained in very clear terms. Information on the whereabouts of these records and how they may be accessed is also provided. Equally important, there is guidance on how effectively they might be used. The appendices to the book include a full listing of pre-1800 church records for Ulster; a detailed description of nearly 250 collections of seventeenth and eighteenth-century estate papers; and a summary breakdown of the sources available from this period for each parish in Ulster. Succinct, practical, comprehensive, and accomplished, this new book will be essential for everyone researching ancestors from the northern province of Ulster, not just the Scots-Irish Presbyterians but those of an Irish Catholic or Anglican and non-conformist English background. If you have Ulster ancestors, this book is for you.

----**Solving your Brick Walls**—a practical internet tutorial for trying to resolve research queries. It is an extended question and answer session, where the speakers use online resources and their local knowledge to offer participants practical tips about Irish and Scots-Irish research. The presenters are from one of Ireland's foremost genealogy research organizations and publishing houses, and they will give advice on what to do and where to go next.

Each seat in the auditorium is wired for Internet access, and participants may bring their own laptops to the workshop.

These sessions will help the beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike. What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day itself, than by making a start on your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestral quest. Your Irish genealogy is waiting to be discovered. With over 50 years experience of serving Irish people everywhere, let the Ulster Historical Foundation help you begin your journey home.

The **Ulster Historical Foundation** is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote interest in Irish genealogy and history, with particular reference to the historical nine county province of Ulster. The Foundation is one of the leading genealogical research agencies in Ireland and a major publisher of historical, educational, and genealogical source books.

Irish Genealogy Workshop continued

Ulster is the northern most province of the island of Ireland. It is composed of the six counties of Northern Ireland: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone, and the three border counties of the Irish Republic: Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.

Fintan Mullan has been Executive Director of Ulster Historical Foundation since 2001. He is a non-executive director of the Irish Family History Foundation; a board member of the Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR), and a former member of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Readers Forum. He has spoken widely in the USA about Irish family history research, and has also spoken in Canada, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. He was educated at Queens University, Belfast. He has a bachelors degree in Irish Politics and Philosophy, and a masters degree in Organization and Management, both from Queens University, Belfast.

Brian Trainor retired as Research Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation last September. He was educated at Queens University, Belfast, and from there went for a time to the Institute of Historical Research in London. He returned to Belfast where he lectured for several years at Queens before becoming, in 1956, an archivist in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. He was Director of the Public Record Office from 1970 to 1987, when he became Director and then Research Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation. He holds an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the National University of Ireland.

Copies of the Foundation's **books** will be available for sale at the workshop.

For those wishing to spend the night in Batesville, the following **motels** are available. For a reservation, the phone numbers are:

---Best Western Scenic View Motor Inn: 870--698-1855

---Comfort Inn and Suites: 870-698-1900

---Ramada Inn: 870-698-2995

---Super 8 Motel: 870-793-5888

The Board for Certification of Genealogists

The Board for Certification of Genealogists [BCG] is an independent certifying body. It consists of experienced, educated, family historians who have proved their advanced skills and knowledge through a process of peer review of their work. The BCG was founded in 1964 to promote uniform standards of competence and ethics in genealogy. These standards include the Genealogical Proof Standard, data collection standards, evidence and evaluation standards, and compilation standards. The elements of the GPS are a reasonably exhaustive search, complete and accurate citation of sources, analysis and correlation of collected information, resolution of conflicting evidence, and a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion. Things all family historians should be doing, right?

The Board publishes *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* which describes and illustrates these standards. If you attend national genealogical conferences you have probably seen the Board's booth and perhaps sat in on one of their explanatory sessions. In conference or institute lectures you have probably heard of the Genealogical Proof Standard. The standards adapted and promulgated by the BCG have changed the concept of genealogical proof over the last half century.

If you do any amount of genealogical reading, you see the Board's service marks, CG for Certified Genealogist and CGL for Certified Genealogical Lecturer, attached to the names of many genealogy researchers, writers and lecturers. To attain these service marks each applicant submits a portfolio of work samples that are evaluated independently by four judges, at least three of whom agree the work meets the Genealogical Proof Standard and warrants certification. Certification is renewed every five years by showing that skills have been maintained and updated.

It may be that you don't aspire to be a Certified Genealogist. But the fact is that you can learn a great deal about the requirements of successful and accurate genealogical research from *The BCG Standards Manual* and the BCG website. The Skillbuilding section of the website is especially helpful to researchers by providing brief essays on using

The Board for Certification of Genealogists continued

wills, deeds, or indexes, citing sources, transcribing materials, creating source citations, working around loss of records and many other topics.

Equally helpful are a series of work samples that consist of case studies of genealogical problems and their resolutions. There are short, medium-length, and longer examples and compiled genealogies as well.

The website also contains a self-scored quiz to see if you are ready to be certified. The Board recently initiated a blog called *SpringBoard: News and Notes* to which anyone may subscribe. To discover other ways you may benefit from the BCG web site, explore it at www.bcgcertification.org. The definition of genealogy there is especially apt in these times.

Another way you can learn about standards of genealogical research methods and proof is by reading a quality genealogical journal regularly. While there are several quality genealogical quarterlies out there, articles in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* consistently illustrate the methodology that best displays use of the Genealogical Proof Standard. *Quarterly* articles chronicle thorough no-stone-unturned research in original sources, careful analysis and correlation of evidence, how to resolve conflicting evidence, accurate citation of sources, and reasonable conclusions. Such articles are examples of excellent work that all family history researchers should aspire to, if only for the benefit of themselves and their families.

We can all learn to be better genealogists by exposing ourselves to the work of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the writing in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Log Cabin Restoration Workshop

The **Historic Arkansas Museum** is hosting a log cabin workshop March 4-8, 2013, offered by the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies.

This workshop teaches participants to investigate and understand log-structure problems by investigating deterioration problems in actual log buildings. It will teach participants how to understand and repair decay and deterioration in a log cabin. The class will consist of 2-3 hours of daily lectures covering cabin decay and deterioration issues and 3-4 hours a day repairing a log cabin.

Lecture topics consist of: Decay and deterioration causes; Installing logs and making notches; Appropriate finishes/coatings for log buildings; Daubing dos and don'ts; Checks, cracks and other log maintenance issues; and Foundations, roofs, moisture and the big picture.

The workshop will take place at the [Historic Arkansas Museum](#), 200 E. Third St., Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201. The cost is \$900. The instructor will be Joe Gallagher.

Joseph Gallagher was born in Philadelphia but has lived all of his adult life in the west. His undergraduate degree was obtained at Temple University, while his graduate degrees were awarded at Idaho State University and Southern Methodist University. Mr. Gallagher was employed by the USDA-Forest Service until his recent retirement. During that time Mr. Gallagher worked with leading architectural conservationists in the restoration of numerous early 20th-century cabins, barns, homes, and offices. Since 1983 Mr. Gallagher has been the principal in Heritage Preservation Resources and has restored and repaired or assessed over 400 log and timber structures, most eligible for the National Register, many listed on the National Register, and some listed as National landmarks. He has led numerous field classes in historic building restoration and condition assessment around the country.

To register for the workshop [click here](#)

Legislators Seek to End Public Access to SSDI Again

On 30 January 2013 *The Legal Genealogist*, Judy G. Russell, at www.legalgenealogist.com, reported on the bad news that the 113th Congress was already moving to restrict access to the Social Security Death Index [SSDI] . Representative Richard Nugent's H.R. 295 proposes to close public access to the Master Death Index for a person until two years after his death by anyone except fraud investigators. While this is not a problem for most genealogists, it does cause difficulty for forensic genealogists, heir researchers, and those researching genetically inherited diseases. Ms. Russell makes it clear the real problem is the failure of the Internal Revenue Service to "implement and enforce strict anti-fraud measures in the tax return system," in other words, to use the SSDI to purge names and numbers of deceased persons. Nugent's bill addresses this but still requests a two year moratorium on release of names and social security numbers of the deceased.

Russell warns that others in Congress are even more resistant to the needs of genealogists and other researchers. She mentions the reappointment of Rep. Sam Johnson, (R-Texas) to the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee's subcommittee on Social Security. He thinks genealogists are bad guys and that public access of SSDI should be closed forever.

At the same time, Russell reported some possible good news in the departure of SS Commissioner Michael Astrue who she had proclaimed Genealogy's Public Enemy No. 1 a year ago because he had wanted to close all SS records for 75 years. It remains to be seen if his replacement will be more reasonable.

On 25 February *The Legal Genealogist* updated her blog with the latest legislative movement on restriction of SSDI. There are now three bills. One is very much like Nugent's and in fact is cosponsored by him. The third comes from Rep. Michael Capuano (D-Mass.) and it would prevent the Social Security Director from publishing social security num-

Legislators Seek to End Public Access to SSDI Again continued

bers in the SS Death Master File or any other database. This may seem reasonable on the surface, but in fact it would hinder fraud investigators because they need the name and SS number to prevent identity thieves from opening accounts in a deceased person's name or with a deceased person's number. Any bank or credit card company can have access to the weekly updated Death Index in order to see if a name and social security number there are in their customer database. Legislators do not appear to know or understand this.

If you subscribe to Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter [EOGN] you know that he weighed in on this topic (again) recently as well. See his February 25 post entitled *Commentary: Use the SSDI to Reduce Identity Theft* (http://blog.eogn/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/02/commentary-use-the-ssdi-to-reduce-identify-theft). There he included the following directly from the Social Security Administration's web site:

Here is a copy-and-paste from the Social Security Administration's web site at <http://www.ntis.gov/products/ssd-dmf.aspx>. I added the bold text:

"Leading government agencies, financial institutions, investigative firms, credit reporting organizations, medical researchers, and other industries use the SSA Death Master File (DMF) to verify death, **as well as to prevent fraud.**"

Here is another copy-and-paste from the same page on the Social Security Administration's web site:

"By methodically running financial, credit, payment and other applications against the Death Master File, the financial community, insurance companies, security firms and state and local governments **are better able to identify and prevent identity fraud**, and identify customers who are deceased."

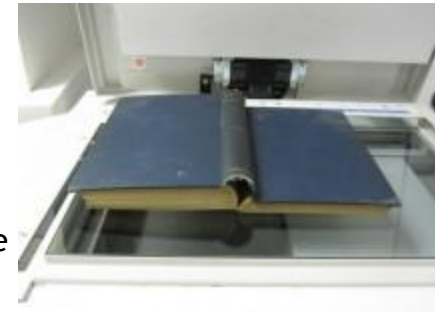
Perhaps legislators should be reading that instead of beating on genealogists.

Photocopies ordered from the Family History Library will be sent digitally

If you have been ordering photocopies of records from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, you may be interested in this notice from the [FamilySearch](#) blog:

Policy Change for Patrons Requesting Photocopies From the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah Posted February 4, 2013

All requests for information copied from films, book pages, CDs, marriage, death or birth certificates, wills and/or deeds, etc. will be copied in digital format and emailed to patrons in a zipped PDF or JPG file format. There is no charge for this service if we are able to email the information to patrons.



If a patron does not have an email address, we can mail the information to the patron using the US Postal Service. However, as much as possible, we will rely on emailing all requests for information through the internet. If patrons do not own a computer or do not have an email address, they can request to have the information emailed to their local Family History Center, where they can print the information at the center.

Patrons should request copies by emailing their request to Photoduplication@familysearch.org. All requests MUST include the following information:

Film or Fiche number

Item number

Name of Individual(s) referred to in the record

Photocopies ordered from the Family History Library will be sent digitally continued

Title of the record

Name of parents, spouse, grantor, grantee, etc.

Event type (Birth, Death or Marriage)

Complete event date and place

Event place (county, parish, township, etc.)

Volume or page number

Registration or Certificate Number

Any other information that will help us locate your record.

Meet a new member of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Board of Directors

Mary Cooper Miller is a native of Izard County and lived on the bank of White River until she went to college at UCA. After spending thirty-one years as a school librarian, she is enjoying her retirement, which gives her time to research her ancestors. In 1996, she published *Coopers of Izard County, Arkansas* after almost ten years of searching out facts in several Southern states' archives and the National Archives.

Her major in college was English, because she was told Library Science was only a minor. That decision has helped her in her hobbies. She is currently volunteer Editor of the Batesville Area Civil War Round Table; the quarterly publication of the Batesville Genealogy Society, *Bits of Bark From the Family Tree*; and the *Izard County Historian*, quarterly publication of the Izard County Historical Society.

Her husband says she is busier now than when she worked for a paycheck! She volunteers at the Old Independence Regional Museum and at her church's library.

Also, she is Registrar of the Independence County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #135, United Daughters of the Confederacy, having served as President of both those organizations in the past.



Mary Cooper Miller in costume during the Independence County Historical Society walking tour of the earliest settlement of the town of Batesville.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! susanb1996@aol.com –Thanks!

AGS: To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

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